

CSOAM Professional Code of Conduct

This code is entered into voluntarily by all members of the CSOAM.

1. A Therapist will conduct himself/herself in professional duties in accordance with this code as approved by the CSOAM.
2. A Therapist must only perform or participate in those procedures that are within his/her competency, and for which he or she is appropriately qualified; and must refer those patients whose needs or requests are outside his or her competency.
3. All services and functions practised by A Therapist must be provided in accordance with this code.
4. A Therapist's ordinary place of practice must provide privacy and confidentiality for his/ her patients and their records.
5. A Therapist must not exploit his or her relationship with a patient in any way. In particular, there must not be a sexual relationship with a patient during the professional relationship.
6. A Therapist must refrain from criticising colleagues in public, or in a clinical setting, in a manner which casts doubts on the colleague's professional competence. This does not apply to the critical evaluation of published works nor to expert testimony in court.
7. A Therapist must not, unless required by law, divulge information about a patient unless the patient specifically authorises the release in writing. Even under these circumstances, A Therapist should be aware of the necessity of preserving confidentiality as much as possible. For example, in court A Therapist may request the judge or magistrate to permit the suppression of information not relevant to the matter being decided.
8. A Therapist must inform his/her patients at the commencement of a course of treatment of the reasonable foreseeable implications, including material risks, complications and reactions, and explain the nature and purpose of the treatment.
9. A Therapist must not undertake research involving human subjects without the research protocol being approved by a properly constituted ethics committee. This applies in particular to students or trainees who are being considered as subjects for research.
10. A Therapist must not approve of or collaborate in the use of osteopathic techniques by untrained persons except when those persons are in supervised training.
11. A Therapist must respect the ethical, religious and political beliefs of his/her patients and must be willing to refer patients to a more suitable osteopath should such issues seem likely to affect the professional relationship.
12. A Therapist must respect the wish of a patient for a second opinion and must, if practicable, help the patient obtain a competent second opinion.
13. If A Therapist has reason to believe that a colleague is behaving in an unprofessional manner, or that his or her standard of practice falls substantially below acceptable standards then, if practicable, the colleague must be approached in a helpful way. If this is not practicable, then the Therapist should report the behaviour to the CSOAM - which will then have to meet to consider any appropriate action.
14. A Therapist must not treat a patient whilst his/her ability to do so is impaired by the influence of alcohol or drugs.
15. A Therapist in practice, and for a minimum of seven years after retiring from practice, must maintain Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage - in an amount judged to be sufficient by the Board at the time.
16. A Therapist must immediately advise the Society if he/she was convicted of a criminal offence in Canada or elsewhere or if named as a defendant in a court action for negligence or other malpractice in the provision of osteopathic services.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature of Applicant

Witness